

Des Plaines Mayor Complains about Flood Prevention Project Delays

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DES PLAINES, IL -- "If you look at pictures of what it's like in Gurnee now, that's what it'll be here on Thursday," Des Plaines Mayor Tony Arredia said Tuesday.

He complained that the construction of a pumping station and floodwall, which was expected to protect many Des Plaines homes from such flooding, has been delayed for years.

"Nobody gets concerned about this stuff until it's too late," he said.

He said the pumping station will be completed in December and the floodwall in 2005.

Rep. Mark Kirk said other flood-prevention projects finished since 1986 will help reduce the effect of the current flood.

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowky toured troubled areas of Des Plaines with Arredia Tuesday.

Prior to the tour, both leaders expressed frustration at flood control projects that have been delayed for some 20 years.

Schakowsky says this is the 5th 100-flood affecting the area since 1960 and it's something that not should be happening time and time again.

Schakowsky say she'll provide whatever assistance she can to move the propject forward.

She says the city has mobilized all state and federal aid during this difficult period.

Mayor Arredia says his city will be eligible for federal aid once insurance is deducted and a minimal qualification ceiling is met.